

REMARKS

With the entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-28 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 13 and 20 are in independent form. Claims 1, 8, 13 17, 20 and 24 are amended without adding new matter.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Note that independent claims 1, 13 and 20 have been amended to overcome this rejection. Thus, claims 1, 13 and 20 and dependent claims 2-12 and 14-19 and 21-28 that depend on claims 1, 13 and 20 respectively, are no longer subject to this rejection.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7, 13,14, 16, 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Franke et al., Autonomous Driving Goes Downtown, IEEE Intelligent Systems, 1998 (hereinafter “Franke”). Applicants traverse this rejection.

Franke fails to teach the step of processing comprise classifying the selected plurality of patches into a plurality of classes as recited in amended independent claims 1, 13 and 20. Note that this limitation step is added to the independent claims 1, 13 and 20 from the dependent claims 8, 17 and 24 of which the Examiner has indicated as including allowable subject matter. Franke shows a cluster of feature points which are tracked to detect an object and further processes this cluster of feature points to obtain a position and other features of the object. Thus, the processing in Franke does not classify the cluster of feature points into a plurality of classes.

Since Franke is devoid of any teachings regarding classifying the selected plurality of patches into a plurality of classes, Applicants believe amended independent claims 1, 13, and 20 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b). Claims 2-5, 7, 14, 16, 21-23 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 13, and 20 and are patentable at least for the same reasons that the independent claims are patentable. As such, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 13, 14, and 16, 20-23 be withdrawn.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 6 and 15 as being unpatentable over Franke in view of Yang et al., Vision Based Real-time Obstacles Detection and Tracking for Autonomous Vehicle Guidance. Real-time Imaging VI, Proceedings of SPIE, Vol. 4666, pp. 65-74, 2002 (hereinafter “Yang”).

Neither of the references, Franke in view of Yang alone or in combination teach or suggest the step classifying the selected plurality of patches into a plurality of classes as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 13. Since, the amended independent claims 1 and 13 are patentable over the prior art, as discussed above, Applicant submits that the dependent claims 6 and 15 are allowable for the same reasons as advanced allowability of claims 1 and 13. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103 rejection of Claims 6 and 15.

IV. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 8-12, 17-19, and 24-28 subject to overcoming the rejections(s) under the § 112, first paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As noted above, this rejection is now obviated and limitation of claims 8, 17 and 24 are now included in the independent claims 1, 13 and 20 and claim respectively.

CONCLUSION

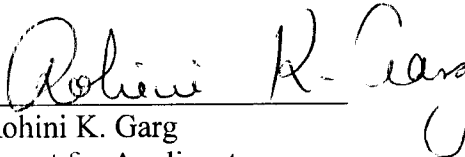
In view of the above amendment and remarks, Claims 1-28 are submitted to be allowable. Reconsideration and favorable action in this regard are therefore earnestly solicited.

No fee is believed to be required with the entry of this amendment. However, if any additional fee is deemed necessary for this Amendment to be entered and considered by the Examiner, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No.

501358.

Applicants' undersigned agent may be reached at the telephone number provided below. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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